

1-17-93



Members of the ski patrol and the Utah County Search and Rescue remove victim's body from mountain.

UTAH COUNTY

Sundance avalanche claims Florida skier

Man and nephew skied into closed area. Another skier partially buried.

By Brooke Adams
Deseret News staff writer

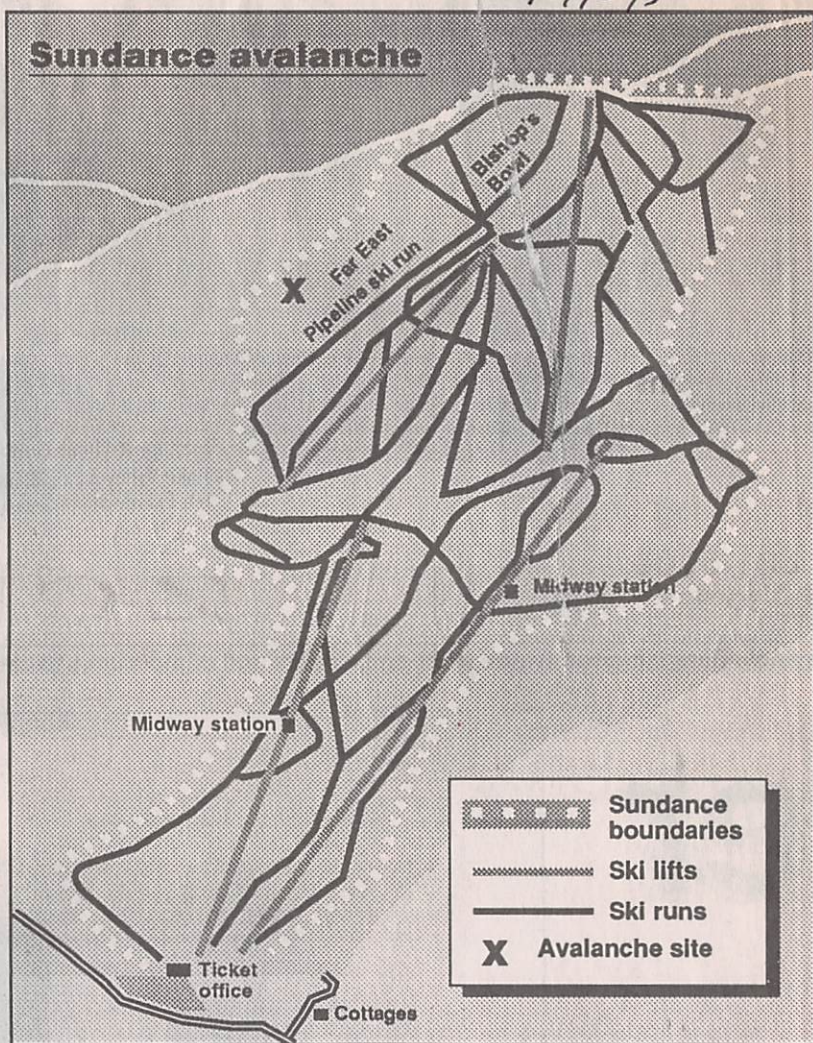
17 Jan '93

PROVO — A Florida man died in an avalanche at Sundance Ski Resort on Saturday afternoon. Bruce M. Bothun, 50, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and a 14-year-old nephew skied into the Far East Ridge area at Sundance about 3:08 p.m. The area was marked

closed because of avalanche danger, Sundance General Manager William H. Shoaf said. The two apparently triggered an avalanche, which swept Bothun down the slope to the Pipeline run. His nephew remained at the top of the ridge. The avalanche, about 30 feet wide, 80 feet long and 15 feet deep, buried Bothun. It also buried a 17-year-old skier at the base of the slope to his waist. Sundance Ski Patrol members dug out the unidentified skier, who was not injured.

In the process of digging the skier out, they found a loose ski and began searching for other victims. They located Bothun about 42 minutes after the avalanche, Shoaf said. The ski patrol administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation while transporting Bothun to an ambulance waiting at the Sundance parking lot. He was taken to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center and pronounced dead at 5:35 p.m., Utah County Sheriff Lt. Ron Fernstedt said. The ski patrol and members of the Utah County Search and Rescue Team used search dogs and probes to check for additional people in the slide but found no one else. Bothun was staying with family while vacationing in Utah. His par-

Please see **AVALANCHE** on B4



AVALANCHE

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ents are from Salt Lake City. His wife was in Florida when the accident occurred.

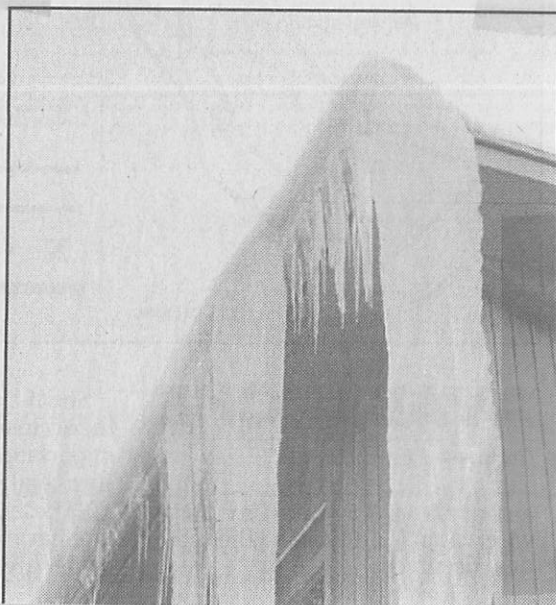
Shoaf expressed sadness over the accident and emphasized the importance of obeying posted closures at the ski resort. "These postings denote areas that haven't been prepared and made safe for skiing," Shoaf said.

STUART W. JOHNSON, DESERET NEWS



Emergency. Guardsmen activated front-end loaders and dump trucks to clear

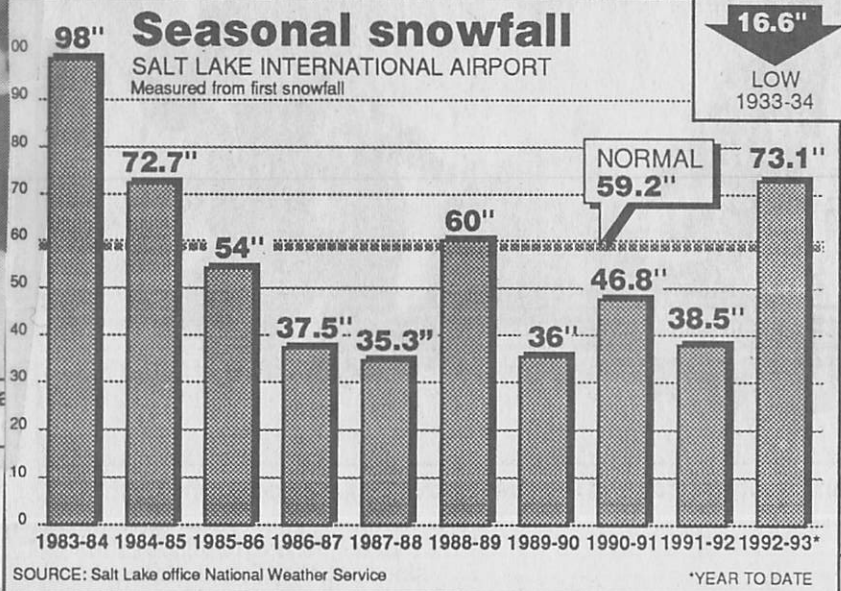
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1982-83 Only 55.8 inches at the airport. Snowfall caused flooding at the end of the season (spring). 5 inches of snow on May 11. Flooding on Memorial Day.

1983-84 98 inches at the airport. Third greatest amount ever recorded.

HIGH
1951-52
117.3"
16.6"
LOW
1933-34



story to tell . . .

Big Snow of '93. Samples from people in downtown Salt Lake City last week



Sandra Brooks,
Holladay

"We heard on CNN that there was bad weather in



Robert Larsen,
Ogden

When he headed out Sunday evening to Salt



Eleanor Nicholes,
Salt Lake City

Several days of storm left Nicholes, who doesn't



Public works director adjusts to snowy job

The last time Catherine Hoffman had to deal with snow, she was a child in western Massachusetts.

But during the past several weeks, she has been in charge of Salt Lake City's snowplows — trying to adjust to her new job as the city's public works director after years of living in San Diego.

She now wears boots and Levis to work.

From the first snowflakes, Hoffman has driven with snowplow drivers and spent entire days trying to learn and to boost the morale of her workers.

Hoffman admits she has heard a few complaints from people wondering how "that woman from San Diego" can handle the job, but the calls tapered off as people began to realize the severity of the storm.

"People realize this is an act of nature I have nothing to do with," she said. "You have to remember this follows several years of light snow. Everybody's frustrated. In many cases, they expect the city to do everything."

Not everyone complains. Some have rewarded city plow drivers with home-baked cookies and hot apple pies. Wasatch Elementary School children sent thank-you letters to the department.

Her main responsibility is to keep the drivers in good spirits during and after their 12-hour shifts.

"I try to help by letting them know their work is appreciated."

Guardsmen on a mission in S.L. instead of Somalia

When Utah National Guard members volunteered for Operation Restore Hope, they likely thought they would be helping Somalia, not clearing snow in downtown Salt Lake City.

On Tuesday morning at the co